(c) if so, the places where these international airports are likely to be set up as well as the number of such airports; and

(d) by when these international airports are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 16 declared international airports in the country. The State wise details are as follows: Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir), Bangalore (Karnataka), Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut and Cochin (Kerala), Nagpur and Mumbai (Maharashtra), Amritsar (Punjab), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Goa and Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Two greenfield international airports namely Hyderabad International Airport at Shamasabad near Hyderabad and Bangalore International Airport at Devanhalli near Bangalore are under construction and expected to start operation by mid 2008. Government of India has also accorded 'In-principle' approval for setting up new international airport at Mopa in Goa.

Free air passage to retired bureaucrats

1334. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired bureaucrats of Indian Airlines and Air India are provided with free air passage;

(b) if so, the number of bureaucrats availed of free air passage during the last three years; and

(c) what are the destination mostly preferred by bureaucrats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Some Government officers serve Air India and Indian Airlines on deputation basis. They are not provided with free air passages after completion/termination of their deputation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.